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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th, 47th and 56th meetings, on 5 and 7 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.46, 47 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/674);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/675 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.2).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.83

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of the Philippines and coordinator of informal consultations on this item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/57/L.83).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.83 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1469 (2003) of 25 March 2003,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/298 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 48.1 million United States dollars, representing some 10 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only twenty-three Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full

[1] A/57/674, A/57/675 and Corr.1 and A/57/723.
[2] A/57/772 and Add.2.

and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation without prejudice to a future discussion and decision on the proposal to create the post of Deputy Force Commander;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 43,401,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 41,529,500 dollars for the

[3] A/57/772/Add.2.
[4] A/57/674.

maintenance of the Mission, 1,433,100 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 438,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 43,401,000 dollars at a monthly rate of 3,616,750 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[5] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

15. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 3,389,800 dollars at a monthly rate of 282,483 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 3,041,000 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 322,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 25,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

16. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and of other income in the total amount of 12,289,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 12,289,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Further decides* that the decrease of 817,500 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be set off against the credits from the amounts referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17 above;

19. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

20. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

21. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".